various vocational trades to meet skilled manpower requirement of the industry. Apart from these, skill training is also proposed to be imparted through Skill Development Initiative from the current financial year, as per budget announcement of Union Finance Minister in his budget speech 2004-05.

Grant under NCLP to Dhule district, Maharashtra

1177. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for grants under National Child Labour Project in Dhule District, Maharashtra on 17th April, 2006 to Government;

(b) if so, whether this proposal is still pending with Government; and

(c) what are the main reasons for the delay and by what time the final approval in this regard is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR **AND** EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra *vide* letter dated 17.04.06 had recommended for sanctioning of special schools to Dhule District under the National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP). The proposal was examined and 40 special schools were sanctioned on 3rd May, 2006 to the NCLP, Dhule, Maharashtra.

(c) Does not arise.

National Child Labour Project

1178. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in an effort to check child labour, Government has implemented a National Project to look after children withdrawn from work;

(b) if so, whether at least 60,442 employees have been prosecuted for employing children in violation of provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act;

(c) whether the Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Schemes in 250 Districts of 20 States for withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations; and

(d) if so, to what extent they have been helpful and how many children have so far been provided assistance under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work.

(b) As per the information received from the State/UT Governments, 67,691 prosecutions have been launched against the offending employers during the period

1997-98 to 2005-06 under the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act.

(c) Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of 20 states of the country for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations. Under the scheme, these children are put into special schools where they are provided with accelerated bridging educations, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend and health care facilities etc.

(d) Under the scheme, at present, 3.43 lakh children are enrolled in the special schools and 4.57 lakh children have already been mainstreamed into formal education system since the inception of the scheme.

Safe drinking water in the country

†1179. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even today 20 per cent population in the country is devoid of safe drinking water;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the amount Government have already spent for providing safe drinking water in the last three years;

(d) the steps Government have taken to provide sufficient technical support for drinking water scheme; and

(e) whether any amount of assistance has also been received from abroad and United Nations for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending loan applications/sanctions under SGSY in A.P.

1180. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending loan applications/ sanctioned loan applications and the loan disbursed under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) in various States, particularly Andhra Pradesh as on 31 st March, 2007;

(b) the reasons for keeping loan applications pending under SGSY for very long period; and

(c) by when all the loan application under SGSY are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) (a) During the year 2006-07 in Andhra Pradesh,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.